

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213855

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, BQG

SUBJECT: MEETING OF MINISTERS-PRESIDENT IN BERLIN

REF: (A) PARIS 8087 (B) USBERLIN 2295

1. WE NOTE WITH INTEREST REPORT FROM EMBASSY PARIS (REF A)
THAT FRENCH ARE UNHAPPY ABOUT FORTHCOMING MEETING OF FRG
MINISTERS-PRESIDENT IN BERLIN, AND MAY CONSIDER DOING
SOMETHING ABOUT IT. WHEN GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE WAS HERE
LAST MONTH HE REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT HE WAS CONSCIOUSLY
STRIVING TO MINIMIZE INTERNATIONAL CONTROVERSY OVER BERLIN.
BUT, HE ADDED, THERE WERE LIMITS TO WHAT HE ALONE COULD DO,
AND IN THIS CONTEXT HE CITED THE MEETING OF MINISTERS-
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PRESIDENT. HE WOULD BE JUST AS HAPPY IF THE MEETING WERE
HELD ELSEWHERE, BUT THE SITE, HE EXPLAINED, WAS ROTATED
ANNUALLY AMONG THE ELEVEN LAENDER AND 1977 WAS BERLIN'S
TURN. FURTHERMORE, ALTHOUGH HE WOULD TAKE PAINS IN HIS
OPENING ADDRESS TO AVOID GIVING OFFENSE TO THE SOVIETS,
THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD DO TO CONTROL WHAT THE OTHER
SPEAKERS MIGHT SAY. HE HAD ALREADY HEARD FROM BAVARIAN

MINISTER PRESIDENT GOPPEL, FOR INSTANCE, THAT GOPPEL
INTENDS TO PUT THE GERMAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE
AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION.

2. ADDRESSEES MAY, WHEN TALKING TO FRENCH ON THIS GENERAL
SUBJECT, CITE STOBBE'S ATTITUDE AS WELL AS INFORMATION
CONTAINED REF B IN EFFORT TO DISSUADE FRENCH FROM
PROTESTING TO FRG ABOUT MEETING. AT SAME TIME, WE WONDER
WHETHER ALLIES MIGHT NOT CONSULT AMONG THEMSELVES ABOUT
WISDOM OF SUGGESTING TO FRG THAT IT DISCREETLY SUPPORT
-- TO THE LIMITED EXTENT IT CAN -- STOBBE'S EFFORTS TO
KEEP CONFERENCE AS LOW-KEY AS POSSIBLE. REQUEST EMBASSY
VIEWS. VANCE

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